JEFFERSON COLLEGE

COURSE SYLLABUS

HST201

ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL CIVILIZATION

3 Credit Hours

Prepared by:
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Arts and Science Education
HST201 Ancient and Medieval Civilization

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

A. Prerequisite: none

B. 3 semester hours credit

C. Ancient and Medieval History is a general survey that examines the political, social, economic and cultural aspects of the first half of the Western civilization. Beginning at prehistory and continuing up to the Renaissance, the course analyzes the creation and the evolution of the Western tradition. Ancient and Medieval History will partially fulfill the humanities requirement for the associate degree. (F,S)

II. EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES/ASSESSMENT MEASURES

At the completion of this course a student will be able to:

A. Outline the chronological developments of Western civilization.

   Students will participate in class discussions after appropriate textbook/article reading and lecture.

B. Examine the basic movements, forces and trends that have shaped Western civilization.

   Students will take quizzes and unit exams, and will participate in class discussions to assess their knowledge level.

C. Discuss the birth, growth and evolution of humanism.

   Students will take quizzes, participate in class discussions and/or participate in small group exercises to assess their knowledge level.

D. Differentiate the basic traditions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam and their evolution.

   Students will write and receive feedback and a numerical grade between zero and one hundred on an essay of appropriate word length, or could complete an historical analysis exercise.
E. Interpret how ancient history influences the modern, contemporary world.

Students will participate in class discussions after appropriate textbook/article reading and lecture.

F. Have the ability to understand the discipline of history and the perspectives, knowledge and tools of the field.

Students will take unit exams, complete primary source exercises (historical analysis), and/or participate in class discussion to assess their knowledge.

G. Develop basic critical thinking skills and historical knowledge by assessing various historical interpretations, facts and perspectives.

Students will write and receive written feedback and a numerical grade between zero and fifty points on at least two essays of appropriate length illustrating their mastery of the skills outlined.

H. Develop an interest in the above areas which will enable the student to function effectively as a citizen in society and as part of the democratic process.

Students will participate in class discussions.

III. COURSE OUTLINE

A. Unit I – Antiquity (Objective: be able to articulate conclusions and assessments on the following topics.)
   1. Introduction to course
      Objective: Describe and explain the significance of major events and people of this era.
   2. The Prehistoric World
      a. Theories on the Origins of Man
      b. The Paleoanthropologists and their discoveries
      c. The physical and cultural evolution of man
      d. The rise of civilization
      Objective: Describe and analyze the theories on the origins of man.
   3. Mesopotamian Civilization
      a. The Sumerians
      b. From the Sumerians to the Persian Conquest
      c. The Cultural Legacy of Mesopotamia
      Objective: Explain the concept of “core culture” in regard to Mesopotamia's successive civilizations.
   4. Ancient Egypt
      a. The Impact of Geography
      b. Egyptian Religion
c. Political Evolution Under the Pharaohs  
d. Social and Economic Use  
e. Cultural Achievements  

Objective: Explain the correlation between the physical environment and the religious experience of the Egyptians.

5. The Hebrew and Early Greek- Civilizations  
a. Hebrew Beginnings  
b. The rise and fall of the Hebrew states  
c. Hebrew religious development  
d. Hebrew law and literature  
e. The Hebrew legacy  
f. Minoan civilization  
g. Mycenaean civilization  
h. The legacy of the Minoans and Mycenaeans  

Objectives:  
- Explain the correlation between the religious history of the Hebrews with their political experience.  
- Describe the "borrowed" and the innovative elements of the early Greek civilizations.

B. Unit II -- Classical Antiquity (Objectives: be able to articulate conclusions and assessments on the following topics; describe and explain the significance of major events and people of this era.)  

1. Greek Civilization  
a. The Dark Ages  
b. The city-state  
c. Sparta  
d. Athens  
e. The Persian War and the Peloponnesian War  
f. Daily life in ancient Athens  
g. Greek Philosophy  
h. Literature and Art  
i. Greek Achievement  

Objective: Explain the significance of the concepts of humanism, idealism, democracy and their development.

2. Hellenistic Civilization  
a. The Persian Empire  
b. The Macedonians  
c. Hellenistic Politics and Economy  
d. Hellenistic art, culture and science  
e. The Hellenistic Legacy
Objectives:

- Explain the significance of the concepts of humanism, idealism, democracy and their development.
- Explain the simultaneous demise of Classical Greece and the proliferation of Greek ideas and culture.

3. Roman Civilization
   a. The founding of Rome
   b. The early Republic
   c. The wars with Carthage
   d. The Collapse of the Republic
   e. The Culture of the Roman Republic
   f. The Early Empire
   g. The Culture of the Roman Empire
   h. Roman Law
   i. The Crisis of the Third Century
   j. The Decline of Rome
   k. The Roman Legacy

Objectives:

- Describe the significance of Roman law, militarism and architecture.
- Describe the differences between the Roman Republic and the Roman Empire.
- Explain the causes for the fall of the Roman Empire.

4. Christianity and the Transformation of Rome
   a. The Reorganized Empire
   b. The Triumph of Christianity
   c. The Rapid Evolution of Christianity
   d. The Germanic Invasions
   e. The Distillation of Christian Thought
   f. The East-West Split of Rome

Objectives:

- Explain the causes for the fall of the Roman Empire.
- Describe the rise of early Christianity in the Roman Empire.

C. Unit III -- The Middle Ages (Objective: be able to articulate conclusions and assessments on the following topics; describe and explain the significance of major events and people of this era.)
   1. The Byzantine Empire, Islam and Early Medieval Europe
      a. The Byzantine Empire
      b. The Rowering of Islam
      c. Western Europe in the Early Middle Ages

Objective: Describe the salient characteristics of the Byzantine empire and the rapid expansion of Islam.
2. The High Middle Ages (1050-1300)
   a. The Revolution in Agriculture
   b. Lord and Serf
   c. The Urban Revolution
   d. Feudalism and National Monarchies
   **Objective:** Explain how vassalage operated and its significance for ordering European life.

3. The Religious and Intellectual Developments of the High Middle Ages (1050-1300)
   a. The Consolidation of the Papal Monarchy
   b. The Crusades
   c. The Rise of Religious Vitality
   d. Intellectual Revival
   e. The Blossoming of Art, Literature and Music
   f. Developments in Architecture and Drama
   **Objective:** Describe the power and influence of the Papacy during this period.

4. The Late Middle Ages (1300-1500)
   a. Economic Depression
   b. Social and Economic Dislocation
   c. Trials for the Church
   d. Political Crisis
   e. The Formation of Russia
   f. Changes in Culture and Technology
   **Objective:** Describe the impact of the great crises of the late Middle Ages.

5. The Renaissance (1350-1550)
   a. Italy
   b. Renaissance Thought and Literature
   c. The Artist
   d. The Italian Decline
   e. The Renaissance in the North
   f. Renaissance Music
   g. Renaissance Science
   h. European Expansion Overseas
   **Objective:** Describe the salient features of the Renaissance and distinguish between the Italian Renaissance and the European Renaissance.

IV. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

A. Lecture

B. Class Discussion
C. Films and videos
D. Small group exercises
E. Historical analysis
F. Reading of text and other assignments
G. Multimedia presentations

V. REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S)


VI. REQUIRED MATERIALS

A. Textbook(s)
B. Paper and writing utensils
C. Access to newspapers, periodicals, and the internet

VII. SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES

A. Library
B. Current periodicals
C. Documentaries
D. Art Museum

VIII. METHODS OF EVALUATION

A. Periodic examinations consisting of essays and objective questions
B. Assessment assignments, e.g. minute papers, muddy points, etc.
C. Outside reading analysis
D. Attendance and class participation
GRADING SCALE
A – consistent excellence in academic work/ near perfect attendance/zero tardiness
B – superior academic work/few absences/little tardiness
C – average academic work
D – below average academic work
F – failing/miss 15% or more of class meetings

IX. ADA STATEMENT

Any student requiring special accommodations should inform the instructor and the Coordinator of Disability Support Services (Library, phone 636-797-3000, ext. 169).

X. ACADEMIC HONESTY STATEMENT

All students are responsible for complying with campus policies as stated in the Student Handbook.
http://vega.jeffco.edu/jkuchar/pdf/sh0809.pdf